

Dear Parents of [Name],

Your daughter's score on the PSAT shows that she could excel in a Computer Science Advanced Placement course. Why should she consider a course in computer science? Would she like a job where she can help people? Does she like to solve problems? Would she be interested in a high paying job where she can work part-time and work from home? Would she like a job where she can be creative and work as part of a team? **AP Computer Science A counts as a science for graduation from Georgia High Schools** and as a science or math for entry into Georgia colleges and universities.

The United States Department of Labor predicts computing jobs to be among the fastest growing through 2018. In fact, they expect there to be over 1.4 million jobs in the U. S. in this field by 2018, but only expect U. S. colleges and universities to graduate enough people to fill about half of those jobs. Students who graduate with a computer science degree had either the highest starting salary or the second highest starting salary of any undergraduate degree.

Computers are crucial to our way of life. They have changed the way we communicate, work, and play. Many of the breakthroughs in medicine are due to computers (like MRIs and CAT scans). Much of advances in Biology required computing. Your daughter could be part of an exciting and rewarding field. See <http://dotdiva.org/> for stories from current young women in computing.

Even if your daughter isn't thinking of a career in computing an AP CS class can help her. Many fields will require her to take a computer science class in college, especially any science or math fields. **At Georgia Tech,** **all students must pass a course in computer science or place out with a 4 or 5 on the AP CS A exam**! Women with prior programming experience are 4 times more likely to succeed in introductory computing classes.

If your high school doesn't offer AP CS, contact the principal and ask her or him to consider adding the course through the Georgia Virtual High School. Or consider sending your daughter to a computing summer camp. See <http://coweb.cc.gatech.edu/ice-gt/2089> for more information on computing summer camps in Georgia.

Thank You,

Teacher Name